

Price - \$4.95 PER MONTH

I M T A I 謙
COAL MERCHANT,
has always on hand
STOCKS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF
COAL.

to the government or very much the same
as those of the absent Governor—and I
think that he has been very detrimental to this
country, seeing its affairs have been administered by
an Acting Governor for nearly four years.
As regards the Bill itself, former Governors
and present members of the Executive Coun-
cil and Legislative Council have confessed
the absolute necessity for certain reforms
in the colony, and I think a certain amount
of assistance to them for not having pushed it
forward. I congratulate your Excellency for
presenting this Bill being personable, because
it was not up to the age, I think in March,
of my rate. I know there has been plenty of time
for it, and I am glad only in November
of this year I brought several matters of detail

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SMALL POX HOSPITAL.			
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of 200 bonus shares upon a number of to be fully paid up shares as shall bear the same proportion (to the subscribed capital as the shares do to 1,500 (i.e., to the entire capital of the company) if the result of the first vote is dissatisfactory he shall have the option of substituting for half the unallotted shares, if any, at the rate of subscription at par for the remaining half of the unallotted shares, if any, but in neither case shall such shares count for dividend or of profits in respect of the first vote."

Mr. Hargrave stated that he had been in the purchase of the *Wandering Minstrel* at it should have pleasure in selling her to the Company at the same price he paid for

id for that prefecture. The number of
ants was in all 131,690, and in each
on an average a little under five. The
id had only one-third this total. On the
the fishing and salt-pan districts had one-
more than four-fifths were agricultural,
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They would be under rather than
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They are all under the truth, excepting

China, while in England, at the same time, capitalists are agitated by a fever of desire to make canals. The Manchester and Liverpool and the Manchester and Leeds proposals did not meet with the success which they deserved. Still a scheme has been proposed to unite Birmingham with the sea, and a legion of enterprising prospectors set forth the advantages of the canal, in language that is not only true, but eloquent. It is pointed out that the railway are in the west, and the docks and wharves to China with their railroads and canals, after this, be readily understood. The canal, crossing the hills and the mountains, would connect the inland districts of England with the coast, and the residents of Peking, have often made the journey, and with great ease.

The French residents in the country, writes *Le Figaro*, noting the return of the Delegation Commission, says that the result is not what might have been expected. Neither the members of the Commission nor the minister at Peking are to be blamed, for they displayed great activity, the latter with energy and fairness. But many points have been raised at Paris itself, and the Government, occupied on the side of Germany and endeavoring to preserve the fullest liberty of action, has not perhaps defended itself with the energy the interests of Tonquin merit. The president of the Commission, will shortly leave France. He has been appointed to the post of Minister of Colonies, and of the distinction he has well merited.

SANITATION IN HONGKONG.

water, but, nothing else, straight down to the central parts of the harbour. Another set of drains and sewers would collect and convey, by a main trunk line running westward, all the refuse and sewage from the houses and shops situated in the district, and there drop it into the sea. With the introduction of this separate system might then be combined, perhaps, our Surveyor-General's pet scheme of what is called back drainage, which, we suppose, is the case of the "non-stop backyard" clause in the Bill. Here the refuse and sewage from the houses and shops would be carried along the backs of houses instead of through the houses into the front street. Further, also, a system of regular street cleansing might be combined with that separate system by providing handcarts, not only for fire-wood, but for the carrying of sweepings, and, or, by means of horse and jet. We are hopeful that the introduction of this separate system would do more than any amount of sanitary legislation towards ridding us of the foul odours for which Hongkong is becoming proverbial and towards increasing our chances of life by any means here found.

Our present system may be best for Hongkong, but us by all means have one defined system and apply that by a thorough overhauling or reconstruction of all our drains and sewers. Better even a deferred or expensive system than this patchwork of happy-go-lucky tinkering at the seams. We are sure that Hongkong has three or four decades to go in Hongkong's brief history. A reform, and a thorough reform, of the whole drainage and sewerage of the town is what we advocate rather than any particular system, the determination of which should be preceded by a painstaking and comprehensive investigation of the actual condition, losses, or otherwise, of drains and sewers and of the present system, and drains and sewers we have at present.

But a reform of the whole drainage and sewerage such as we advocate should not be undertaken except on a basis likely to be adhered to by future generations. A mere resolution on the part of the Surveyor-General to introduce a system, or a Bill introduced by the Government, might be set aside by the very next occupier of the post of Surveyor-General or by the next Governor due to arrive in a few months. What is needed, therefore, is that such a reform should be introduced only after mature investigation and deliberation, and ushered into existence by a Bill of the Legislature, and not by a Statute Law. For this reason, and for no other, we recommend that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed, to investigate the condition, suitability, and sufficiency of the drainage and sewerage of the town, with a view to propose to the Government the adoption of a definite system to be rigidly carried out in the future. It is our belief that such a Commission will show that without the preliminaries of a formal Commission of Inquiry any plan or change of system that might be adopted would lack the prestige and the public confidence which are indispensable if a radical reform such as we need in this respect is to have a chance of permanent maintenance.

II.

The much debated building clauses of the Public Health Bill, we learn from the proceedings in the Legislative Council on Friday, to be struck out of that measure. It is true they are to be re-introduced later on in the form of a Building Ordinance, at least as was stated to be the intention, but we suspect they will undergo considerable modification before they are again brought before the Council.

With the desire to secure light and air for the Chinese in their dwellings no one can fail to sympathize, but opinions may well differ as to what constitutes sufficient light and air and also as to the means of securing them. Of one thing, however, there can be no doubt, that a steady improvement in the quality of the dwellings in Hongkong has been going on for years past. His Excellency the Acting Governor remarked on Friday that some of the objectionable houses he had seen in 1885 he found on visiting the place again this year had been replaced by better ones; and the bad of their own make, houses of fire, dirt, and mean feet. If this movement is going on so satisfactorily, why introduce compulsion, or involve the colony in ruinous expense by way of compensation? In England when it is desired by municipal authorities to clear away a rookery they purchase sufficient of the land to enclose the rookery, and the character of the locality soon changes; a superior class of houses springing up on the new thoroughfares. Some improvement of the streets in Taipingshan would probably be followed by a similar result. If we take a street like Turk-lane, for instance, how can it be improved that anything at all can be done? Is it not a question of a breckneck locality? Let the street be improved and landlords would find it in their interest to erect better houses, as in the case mentioned by General Cameron. The Government therefore share the responsibility with the landlords for the existing state of things; indeed, it is the neglect of the Government in the past that has never allowed to come into existence, and it is the Government that should now lead the way in improvement instead of trying to drive the landlords. Mr. Paton on Friday threw out hints of a scheme, he has for buying up condemned property, improving it, and then re-selling. It is a good idea, but the present season would show a very handsome profit, but a large capital would be required to carry it out. How is the money to be raised? We could not expect to find another loan on the same favourable terms as the last. Every time the Government goes into the market as a borrower, with present high rates of interest, the credit of the colony ought to be good; however, for many times the amount of the present loan. But how many millions would be required to buy up Taipingshan? Until we have some estimate on this point it is useless to further discuss the scheme.

It is now a doubtful question as to the rights in Taipingshan, the remaining clauses of the Bill, which at numerous points touch on the domestic arrangements of the Chinese population. But now that the building clauses have been eliminated, and the Council will be engaged on purely sanitary work, none of the members we imagine, will be opposed to the passing of the Bill. The Bill will alter the constitution of the Sanitary Board and be altered. The suggestions of the Hon. A. S. MacEwan, that the Board should hold its sittings with open doors and that the unpaid members should be elected by the ratepayers whose names appear in the jurisdiction of every thoughtful man. The Acting Attorney-General, in his speech on Friday said:—"If we do not have confidence in the Sanitary Board, and wish to tie them down to every detail, it will be difficult to make an Ordinance at all suitable. We must de-

launched from plying between Canton and the neighbouring river ports. Just as the steamers are about to employ launches to tow them when wind and tide were adverse, and a steady towage traffic was being developed, here was a case in which foreign means of communication were being freely adopted, without the creation of any artificial stimulus. The canal, however, could not brook such a movement, and it has been nipped in the bud. Thus while we are in the North official influence used to overcome the objections of the agricultural population to the acquisition of their land for the purpose of making a railway, in the south we find a similar influence used to quite the contrary purpose, namely, to prevent the adoption of steam on the inland waters. The action of the Canton authorities would be discouraging were it not that the forces at work at Peking in the direction of the adoption of foreign improvements are known to be too strong to allow of any such strenuous resistance. The officials to be dealt with here, it is not unreasonable, we think, to expect that within the next few years we may see the new river steamer *Fukshan* plying to the town from which she takes her name. Such an idea would not doubt be scented by the Viceroy, but His Excellency must be getting a little more reasonable to suppose that the Viceroy is not so big. It will be long, we imagine, before we see the railway track winding its course over the face of the country in the South of China, but it may not be long before the steamer *Whistle* becomes a familiar sound wherever there is water enough to float a vessel. The natural water course of the country supplies a large canal. Even in England, the home of the railway, the iron horse has been unable to drive carriages from the field of competition; and in China, with her facilities for communication by water in the interior, and for the improvement of those communications by the addition of canals, it is hardly reasonable to suppose that the Viceroy is not big enough to see the advantages of the steam train of waggon drawn by a locomotive. A writer in one of our Shanghai contemporaries a few days ago drew attention to the curious circumstance, that while China is being importuned for orders by railway syndicates in Europe it is canals that are at present in the ascendant. Every canal in the world, except the Suez, can be traced to Manchester, another to Birmingham, the rendering of the Seine navigable as far as Paris, the union of the North Sea and the Baltic—these are a few of the many canal schemes either in process of execution or in incubation. China has not yet reached the stage of ship canals, but a brief space of time will, we hope, allow the Chinese to take advantage of the railways and this will soon be followed by their improvement and by the addition of artificial water ways. Canals have the advantage over railways inasmuch as they would be more readily accepted by the people, for they cannot be regarded as an innovation in a country which possesses the Grand Canal, though practically they would be an innovation in the South.

THE WATER SUPPLY QUESTION IN JAPAN.

The Japanese, influenced doubtless by the knowledge that bad and impure drinking water has been largely responsible for the serious epidemics of cholera of late years, are now directing earnest attention to the improvement of their water supply. The Yokohama Water Works, which have for the past two years been under construction, are now practically complete, only a few connections remaining to be effected, and in a few weeks the residents in that part will be the beneficiaries of the new supply of wholesome water.

Mr. J. H. T. PALMER, U.S.E., who was engaged under Colonel PALMER, R.E., on these works, has completed his contract and is on his way home, and his chief will soon be at liberty to proceed to Osaka to carry out the scheme projected to supply that large and important city with water. The authorities of the United States in Japan are prepared to spend an enormous sum in order to secure the benefit of an uncontaminated water supply, and as it is notoriously the wealthiest city in Japan that they have no difficulty in raising the funds. The Yokohama Authorities also intend to make a move in the same direction, and they have given great notice of making the water supply of the port, we believe, intend to seek foreign assistance in the work, which can easily be accomplished by Japanese engineers who have lately been showing their mettle by the construction of various engineering works in most interesting style. Even little Hakodate has been credited with the design of a public water supply. The authorities there recently induced Colonel PALMER to visit their town, and make a report as to the best means of obtaining good supply of water. The sanitary condition of most Japanese towns leaves something to be desired, but with good water and improved drains there would be little to fear from epidemic disease, and the prevalence of cholera is no longer a fair ground for an unripe fear. A good deal of attention is even now paid to drainage in the towns, but the drains do not get sufficiently flushed, and though they only receive house slops and washings a good deal of vegetable refuse necessarily gets in and makes the water very impure.

The fact that the Japanese have actually succeeded in obtaining good water may be accepted as a proof that it is in earnest in endeavouring to drive disease from their midst.

Nor are the flushing of the drains and supply of pure water for potable use only benefits that Yokohama will reap from her new Water Works. The full effect of security against fire, as the water is laid throughout the town, and it will be possible to throw a stream over a three-storied house from the mains, instead of being dependent, as formerly on the wells, for force from which of course did not permit of such powerful streams. In the Japanese towns, the buildings in Japan towns is a further strong argument in favour of a large and constant water supply, and no doubt has had its weight in inducing the Authorities to undertake the scheme prepared by Colonel PALMER. The example of the Japanese might be followed with advantage by the Chinese cities, notably Foochow, where choleraic diseases annually appears at certain seasons. But the Chinese are difficult to convince, especially when there is no immediate perceptible return on the expenditure. Permission has been granted to the Shanghai and the Shanghai Water Works Company to carry its pipes into the native city from the Settlements, although the excellence of the water has been admitted by some of the officials. The prejudice entertained by the former Total for the river water was that there was some substance in it may prevent

maundrina. At all events, they have no proved their preference for pure over dirty water by showing willingness to sanction its introduction into the city. There may be, possibly, a disinclination to disturb the odours of which the narrow alleys of the city enjoy such a profusion.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT IN CROWN COLONIES.

The *Penang Gazette* is responsible for the statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, yielding to the ill-considered convictions of would-be purists at home, has decided that the Contagious Diseases Ordinances, now in force in the Crown Colonies, shall be repealed. Such a step would be a serious calamity, to avert which the Government ought to be spared. In Hongkong many of the advantages of the Act are derived from themselves of the rules to which they are subjected, while all medical men are agreed, we believe, as to the importance of the Act as a protection to the health of the troops, and even as well as the community generally. As our Straits contemporary has said, it would be a very modest step to prevent all Europeans and natives from lifting up their voices against the proposed change. The physical advantages of the Act are undeniable, while the objection to them on moral grounds are wholly untenable. In no city in Europe do a vice more rampant itself so openly as in London, and it is not to be supposed that England has been able to prevent interference; in no city does the respectable female run greater risk of insult. Prostitution is an ugly sore in the social body, and surely it is better to treat it by such means as are available than to leave it rusting unchecked. If it be correct that inspection there be or be about to be introduced, we repeat that we hope our legal legislation will refuse to assent to such a course.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 8th inst. There were present—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING GOVERNOR
Major-General CAMERON, C.B. Acting Chairman.
J. RUSSELL, C.M.G., Acting Clerk.
Hon. P. STEWART, Acting Colonial Secretary.
Hon. B. J. ACKROYD, Acting Attorney-General.
Hon. A. LITTLE, C.M.G., Acting Financial Secretary.
Hon. T. FAIRER, Barrister-General.
Hon. H. G. THOMSON, Harbour Master.
Hon. WONG SHING.
Hon. A. P. MACWEN.
Hon. J. H. B. HARRISON.
Hon. C. P. CHATER.
Mr. J. M. GUTIERREZ, Acting Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

EXTENSION OF RICHMOND ROAD.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following memorandum, commanding a vote of \$5,000 to defray the cost of extending and completing Richmond Road beyond the Grounds of the Government, and of preparing the scheme for building a bridge over the river.

The minute was referred to the Finance Committee.

THE COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Colonial Surgeon's Report for 1886.

MARINE CERTIFICATES.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—The Hon. A. P. MacWen will now put certain questions.

Hon. A. P. MACWEN.—Sir, the question which I have given notice as follows—

Whether Marine Certificates granted in Hongkong are still in force in this Colony, and if the reason why the Government refused the application of Captain Hamlin to have his name endorsed on the Register of the steamers *Singapore* in Macao this morning (4th inst.) was that the Government had regarded to hold of Marine Certificates granted in Hongkong previous to let January, 1884, and what are the instructions of the Secretary of State concerning the certificates of the *Singapore* in Macao? Captain Hamlin has been in possession of Singapore certificates since 1889, and has been employed in the port of Hongkong since 1889. He was found on the register of the *Singapore* in November, 1886, and remained till 14th March this year, when he vacated command on account of the return of the former master, who had been absent on leave. He was immediately got an order of the command of the *Singapore* for registry, which he was conferred with in order of March, 1885, and told that his Singapore certificate was not valid. He then resigned his office, and it was then that he was told that his certificate was useless in Hongkong. He then asked how it was that he was allowed to command the *Singapore* in 1886? However, apart from this, he found it useless. He kept against the fact that he was not a British subject, and he was not in his examination. In the meantime the steamer arrived commanded by an officer who held a Singapore certificate, and he was told that his certificate was not valid. He then asked how it was that he was allowed to command the *Singapore* in 1886? However, apart from this, he found it useless. He kept against the fact that he was not a British subject, and he was not in his examination. 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